

Serial No. 10/063,962
Docket No. 13DV-13657
Amendment dated January 4, 2006
Reply to Office Action of November 4, 2005

REMARKS


In the Office Action, the Examiner reviewed claims 1-20 of the above-identified US Patent Application, with the result that independent claims 1 and 14 and their dependent claims 1-7, 9-13, 15, 16, and 18-20 were rejected under 35 USC §102 and/or §103, and dependent claims 8 and 17 were deemed to recite allowable subject matter. In response, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 14 as set forth above to incorporate the limitations of their respective allowable dependent claims including any intervening claims, and has canceled claims 2-8 and 15-18.

In view of the above, Applicant believes that the above amendments do not present new matter and comply with the Examiner's determination that dependent claims 8 and 17 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC §102 and §103, and asks for favorable reconsideration and allowance of remaining claims 1, 9-14, 19, and 20.

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Should the Examiner have any questions with respect to any matter
now of record, Applicant's representative may be reached at (219) 462-4999.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Domenica N.S. Hartman
Reg. No. 32,701

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Hartman & Hartman, P.C.
Valparaiso, Indiana 46383
TEL.: (219) 462-4999
FAX: (219) 464-1166